The Story of the Red Shield Inn

The Army Museum on JBLM is fortunate to occupy one of a few existing historic buildings that date back to the establishment of Camp Lewis, during the WWI era. It is the only known structure which remains from the recreational area known as Greene Park.

In 1918, the Salvation Army hired the Pratt and Watson Construction Company of Spokane to build the 150-room Western Stick style Red Shield Inn at a cost of $107,000 to accommodate the needs of Soldiers and their families serving at Camp Lewis during WWI.

After the draw-down of WWI, the Salvation Army sold the Inn to the U.S. Army for only $1 on July 1, 1921. It became known as the Camp Lewis Apartments, then shortly afterward, the Camp Lewis Inn. When the Camp became a Fort in 1927, it was renamed the Fort Lewis Inn and continued to serve the needs of the Fort Lewis community for years to come.

In 1972, the Fort Lewis Inn was saved to become home to the Fort Lewis Military Museum, when the new Fort Lewis Lodge was built near the Lewis Main Headquarters. In 1979, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, therefore preserving a historically significant post landmark. With the merger of Joint Base Lewis-McChord in 2010, the Museum continues to serve in its role as an Army Museum.

The Fort Lewis Military Museum is the only certified U.S. Army Museum on the West Coast. It is an irreplaceable link to the base's proud and historic past and will continue to preserve the heritage of Fort Lewis and the Army in the Pacific

Instructions on Visiting/Obtaining Base Pass:

The Museum is located south of Seattle, between Tacoma and Olympia, at exit 120 off Interstate 5.

Visitors without a current military vehicle registration decal and military ID card, must first obtain a Base Pass at the Lewis Main Gate.

To reach the visitor's center, follow signs for "Lewis Main" off of exit 120.

To obtain a Base Pass, visitors need to present a driver's license, vehicle insurance and registration.

Others with a military ID and vehicle decal can enter post through any gate to visit the Museum.

Directions to Museum from Main Gate:

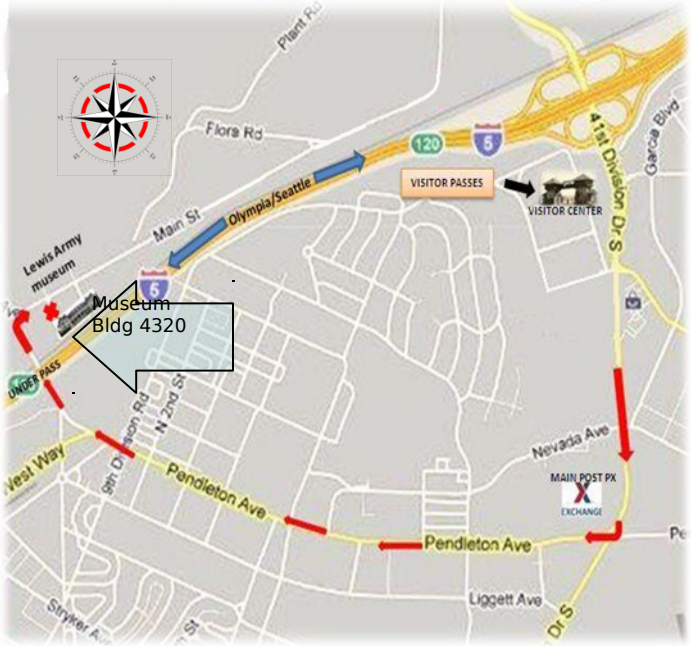
From the Main Gate Visitor's Center, turn right onto 41st Division Drive, stop at Main Gate and show base pass and ID to guard.

Drive .7 miles on 41st Division Dr.

Turn right on Pendleton Ave

Follow Pendleton until it passes under I-5.

After the underpass, road makes curve to right and its name changes to Main Street - the museum will be on your right.



Fort Lewis Military Museum
Building #4320
P.O. Box 331001
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98433

The Museum website has research information at:
www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/dptms/museum.htm

The Fort Lewis Military

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

FREE ADMISSION
Open Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 12 noon to 4pm
Closed Federal Holidays

Cannon Shop Gift Store: (253) 967-4348
www.fortlewismuseum.com/flm/

Museum Information:
(253) 967-7206

Public Website:
www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil

Fort Lewis Main Gate, circa 1940

Vehicle Park with World War II M4A1 Sherman Tank in Foreground

Honoring Service Members Selfless Service

Sword from Saddam Hussein Statue

World War I Weapons and I Corps Uniform

Check in at Fort Lewis Inn Front Desk (Current Gift Store Counter) circa 1930

Bust of General Henry Greene, First Camp Commander, 1917

☆

Six galleries each focus on a specific theme: Soldiers of the Northwest; The Army Post; Medical Corps; The Army Family; Gallery of Valor; I Corps; and rotating displays.

☆

The Vehicle Park features displays of Army Tanks, Artillery, Missiles, Jeeps, Trucks, and associated equipment.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Fort Lewis Military Museum collects, preserves, displays and interprets artifacts pertinent to the history of Camp/Fort Lewis, the Army component of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the units which have served there and the role of the U.S. Army in the Pacific Northwest. The Museum features an outstanding collection of uniforms, weapons, military art and memorabilia associated with the United States Army.

☆ ☆ ☆